

Message Text

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S/S - MR. FLEISCHER

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 025977

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4

TAGS: PPDC, PGOV, KS, US

SUBJECT: ROK PRESIDENT PARK'S LETTER TO PRESIDENT CARTER

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1. FOLLOWING FOR YOUR INFORMATION IS TEXT OF LETTER TO
THE PRESIDENT FROM ROK PRESIDENT PARK CHUNG-HEE WHICH WAS
DELIVERED IN WASHINGTON JANUARY 31 BY ROK AMBASSADOR
KIM YONG-SHIK UPON HIS RETURN FROM CONSULTATION IN SEOUL.

2. BEGIN TEXT. QUOTE:

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT:

A. I HAVE RECEIVED WITH DEEP APPRECIATION YOUR LETTER
DATED JANUARY 17, 1978, EXPRESSING YOUR VIEWS ON A NUMBER
OF IMPORTANT MATTERS PENDING BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA
AND THE UNITED STATES.

B. AS YOU ARE WELL AWARE, I HAVE ALWAYS ATTACHED UTMOST
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IMPORTANCE TO THE TIES OF FRIENDSHIP AND ALLIANCE BETWEEN
OUR TWO COUNTRIES AND HAVE MADE IT A FIRM POLICY OF MY
GOVERNMENT TO DO ITS BEST TO MAINTAIN AND ENHANCE A CLOSE
COOPERATIVE RELATIONSHIP IN ALL FIELDS.

C. IT IS NEEDLESS TO SAY THAT OUR TWO COUNTRIES SHARE
COMMON ASPIRATIONS WHILE WE OCCASIONALLY FOLLOW DIFFERENT

APPROACHES IN ATTAINING NATIONAL GOALS MAINLY DUE TO DIFFERENT POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, CULTURAL AND SOCIAL TRADITIONS AND BACKGROUNDS OF OUR TWO NATIONS.

D. I AM GRATIFIED TO NOTE YOUR BELIEF THAT THE RECENT AGREEMENT REACHED BETWEEN OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS REGARDING THE SO-CALLED TONGSUN PARK CASE WOULD HELP TO REASSERT THE CLIMATE OF CLOSE COOPERATION AND FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES.

E. IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT ON THE BASIS OF THE SAID AGREEMENT, CLOSE COOPERATION IS CONTINUING VERY SMOOTHLY IN SEOUL BETWEEN THE REPRESENTATIVES OF YOUR JUSTICE DEPARTMENT AND OFFICIALS OF THE KOREAN JUSTICE MINISTRY.

F. IT IS MY FIRM BELIEF THAT AN ISSUE LIKE THE TONGSUN PARK CASE MUST NOT BE ALLOWED TO AFFECT UNFAVORABLY OUR LONG-STANDING FRIENDLY TIES.

G. THE CURRENT SITUATION IN THE UNITED STATES LEADS US TO ASSUME THAT IT WILL TAKE STILL SOME TIME BEFORE WE ARE FINALLY ABLE TO PUT THIS UNHAPPY CASE TO REST. BUT I SHARE YOUR VIEW THAT, IF WE BOTH APPROACH THE REMAINING PROBLEMS IN THE SAME SPIRIT WE APPROACHED THE RECENT NEGOTIATIONS, WE WILL SUCCEED IN OVERCOMING THEM. IN THIS CONNECTION, YOU MAY REST ASSURED THAT MY GOVERNMENT

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IS PREPARED TO EXTEND APPROPRIATE COOPERATION TO THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS IN RESPONSE TO SPEAKER O'NEILL'S APPEAL.

H. I FEEL ENCOURAGED THAT YOU HAVE REAFFIRMED THE IMPORTANCE OF OUR JOINT EFFORTS FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF PEACE AND SECURITY IN NORTHEAST ASIA. I NOTE WITH SATISFACTION THAT YOU HAVE REASSURED THAT YOUR ADMINISTRATION WILL MAKE THE BEST EFFORTS TO EFFECTIVELY IMPLEMENT THOSE MEASURES TO COMPENSATE FOR THE PLANNED WITHDRAWAL OF THE UNITED STATES GROUND COMBAT FORCES FROM KOREA ACCORDING TO OUR AGREEMENT REACHED LAST SUMMER. I WISH TO EMPHASIZE STRONGLY THAT, WHILE CERTAIN ADJUSTMENTS MAY BE CONSIDERED IN AN EFFORT TO COPE WITH CHANGING INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENT, WE MUST NOT FORGET THAT ANY SUCH ADJUSTMENT SHOULD REQUIRE CLOSE PRIOR CONSULTATION BETWEEN OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS ON THE BASIS OF CAREFUL STUDY AND ANALYSIS OF THE SITUATION.

I. THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA IN RECENT YEARS HAS MADE CONSIDERABLE DEVELOPMENT IN MANY FIELDS AS A RESULT OF

EFFECTIVE AND HARMONIOUS COOPERATION BETWEEN GOVERNMENT
AND PEOPLE WHILE SAFEGUARDING ITS NATIONAL SECURITY IN
THE FACE OF EVER-PRESENT THREAT FROM COMMUNIST NORTH KOREA.

J. IN ORDER TO SUSTAIN THE MOMENTUM OF DEVELOPMENT IN
THE NORTHEAST ASIAN AREA CONFRONTING THE FORMIDABLE
COMMUNIST FORCES, I HOPE THAT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AND
THEIR LEADERS WILL HAVE SYMPATHETIC UNDERSTANDING OF OUR
CIRCUMSTANCES AND RENDER NECESSARY SUPPORT TO ALL OUR
FUTURE EFFORTS TOWARD THIS GOAL. YOU MAY REST ASSURED
THAT THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA WILL FULLY RECIPROCATATE THE
SAME SPIRIT OF UNDERSTANDING AND COOPERATION.
END QUOTE VANCE

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